

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00584 240859Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01
/025 W

-----240952Z 018327 /23

R 240820Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
COMSIXTHFLT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7402
SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH
AMCONSUL NAPLES

UNCLAS VALLETTA 0584

USCINCEUR FOR POLAND AND PIO
COMSIXTHFLT FOR POLAD AND PIO
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD AND PIO
NAPLES FOR BPAO

E.O.:11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MT, US
SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY BAND FOR MALTA

REF: (A) VALLETTA 0394, R051601Z APR 77 (NOTAL)
(B) VALLETTA 0461, R211100Z APR 77 (NOTAL),
(C) USCINCEUR R 061540Z MAY 77 (NOTAL),
(D) USCINCEUR R 091615Z FEB 77 (NOTAL),
(E) VALLETTA 0515, 041544Z MAY 77 (NOTAL),

1. WE NOW HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING US
PARTICIPATION IN "BANDS DAY" DURING INTERNATIONAL ARTS
FESTIVAL THIS SEPTEMBER. WE NEED SUPPORT FROM STATE
AND DEFENSE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

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2. AMERICAN PARTICIPATION WOULD INVOLVE A MARCHING
PERFORMANCE IN PARADE WITH MALTESE, ITALIAN AND CANADIAN
BANDS STARTING AT 1100 HOURS AND FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS
AT 1215. BAND WOULD GIVE 90-MINUTE OPEN-AIR PUBLIC
PERFORMANCE AT CATHEDRAL SQUARE IN ANCIENT CAPITAL MDINA
AT 1930 HOURS SAME EVENING. MALTESE NOT YET ABLE TO
SPECIFY DATES OTHER THAN "SOMETIME DURING FIRST THREE

WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER."

3. BAND COULD ARRIVE DAY BEFORE PERFORMANCE, DEPART DAY AFTER. GOM WOULD PROVIDE MEALS AND LODGINGS; POST WOULD PAY RESIDUAL PER DIEM OF EIGHT PERCENT OF LOCAL RATE US DOLS. 30. MALTESE AUTHORITIES NOW SAY HOWEVER THAT THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO SUPPLY TRANSPORTATION FROM GERMANY TO MALTA FOR THE BAND.

4. IF WE ARE TO PARTICIAPTE, THEREFORE, WE WILL NEED RECONSIDERATION OF POSITION IN REF C REQUIRING TRANSPORTATION TO BE USER-FUNDED. WE BELIEVE OUR INTERESTS IN MALTA JUSTIFY DOD FUNDING OF SUCH EXPENDITURE, BOTH IN TERMS OF BETTER MALTESE UNDERSTANDING OF OUR MILITARY ROLE AND OUR PRESENCE IN EUROPE AND OF DIRECT AND POSITIVE IMPACT ON WIDE SPECTRUM OF MALTESE LIFE OF AN AMERICAN MUSICAL GROUP OF THIS NATURE, CALIBER AND SIZE.

5. IF NEITHER EUCOM NOR DOD CAN ABSORB COST OF AIR TRANSPORTATION, WE WILL NEED TO EXPLORE FURTHER THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING A US NAVY BAND FROM ITALY. (THIS WAS ORIGINALLY REJECTED BY MALTESE ON GROUNDS THAT 20-PIECE NAVY BAND WAS TOO SMALL FOR THE OCCASION.)

6. WHILE EMBASSY HOPES THAT IT WILL STILL BE POSSIBLE TO FINANCE PARTICIPATION BY A LARGE BAND FROM GERMANY, IT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS REGARDING THE 20-MAN SIXTH FLEET BAND:

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- A. WHICH DATES DURING FIRST THREE WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER WOULD BE AVAILABLE;
- B. CONFIRMATION THAT NAVY AIRCRAFT COULD TRANSPORT BAND TO MALTA WITHOUT COST TO EMBASSY, AS INDICATED EARLIER IN REF D;
- C. WHETHER BAND GIVES MARCHING AS WELL AS BANDSTAND PERFORMANCE.

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